

United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

# WS Directive

2.620 12/12/01

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WS AVIATION SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

1. PURPOSE

To provide authority and responsibility for adherence to minimum standards for aircraft use in the Wildlife Services (WS) program.

2. BACKGROUND

The WS Aviation program is to support the WS program in its efforts to alleviate or curtail damage to agricultural products and protect human health caused by wild mammals or birds. The WS Aviation program is an efficient and cost-effective means for protecting livestock, wildlife and other resources.

All WS aviation operations will be conducted in strict compliance with the WS Aviation Operations Manual, the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR), Federal Airborne Hunting Act, and any applicable State and local laws.

3. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces ADC Directive 2.620 dated 3/26/93.

4. POLICY

The authority and responsibility for providing policy and guidance for all aviation operations conducted by the WS program rests with the Director of the WS Western Region. This authority is delegated to the National Aviation Manager (NAM) who will coordinate all aspects of the national aviation program with the Directors of the WS Eastern and Western Regions and the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC). The NAM has approval authority for all aviation matters within WS to include:

- a. Inspect and approve all aircraft used in the WS program.
- b. Administer initial certifications, flight checks, and periodic proficiency flight checks to all pilots or pilot applicants used in the WS program.

c. Approve or disqualify WS pilots, pilot applicants, contract and rental pilots, or other pilots flying for the WS program, whether or not for hire.

d. Approve or disqualify all repair and maintenance facilities that service WS aircraft.

The authority and responsibility for developing a national aviation airworthiness program for WS aviation activities rests with the NAM. No aircraft shall be used in WS activities (either through contract, agreement, or volunteer) that have not been approved through the NAM, except for commercial travel purposes. The WS Aviation Operations Manual prescribes minimum standards for aircraft use in WS and establishes the WS airworthiness program. All flight, ground, and maintenance personnel directly associated with WS flight operations will adhere to this manual dated 04/09/01, and Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 91, 133, and 137. WS has prepared the Aviation Operations Manual using 14 CFR Part 135 as a guide.

The authority and responsibility for developing a national aviation Safety Program for WS activities resides with the NAM. The purpose of the WS Aviation Safety Program is to provide a written format for the safety guidelines for aviation activities that have been identified as the basis for an overall approach to achieving safer flight operations. The well-being of agency and contract personnel, while performing the daily mission of WS, is the primary focus of the Safety Program and the accident prevention efforts set forth by WS.

## 5. REFERENCES

WS Aviation Operations Manual (04/09/01).  
APHIS Aircraft Operations Manual (APHIS 5400-4) (08/20/99).  
APHIS Safety and Health Manual, Chapter 3 (Manual 203).  
Federal Air Regulations (FAR) Part 43 - Maintenance Requirements.  
FAR Part 91 - Equipment, Instrument, and Certification Requirements.  
FAR Part 133 - External Load Requirements.  
FAR Part 135 - Air Taxi Operators and Commercial Operators.  
FAR Part 137 - Agricultural Aircraft Operation Requirements.  
Federal Property Administrative Services Act of 1949.  
OMB Circular's A-76 and A-126.  
The Economy Act of 1932 (31 U.S.C. 1535 and 1536).  
50 CFR Part 19 - Airborne Hunting.

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